

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 11, 2016

Remember to move your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 2:00 am.

Dates to Remember

March 14, 2016 – Clewiston Library Advisory Board Meeting
March 14, 2016 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
March 16, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing
March 17, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting
March 17, 2016 – City Commission Workshop
March 18-19, 2016 – Sugar Festival-Visit www.clewistonsugarfestival.net for more information
March 21, 2016 – City Commission Meeting
March 21, 2016 – Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- The new owner has submitted their preliminary plans for the renovation of the old Fry Hardware building located at 111 San Benito Street;
- A new business will be opening shortly at 543 East Sugarland Hwy., formally used by Hendry County Motors. The tenant is preparing the site for a plant nursery;
- We are preparing for a Planning & Zoning meeting on Monday, March 14th at 5:30 to discuss the regulations for Clewiston Commerce Park.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- US Sugar held it's first of a series of planned job fairs to be held at the Clewiston Library on Friday, February 26, 2016 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. It was a great success. There were over 175 applicants and 135 actually were interviewed. Our computer lab was kept very busy, as the applicants were directed there to do their online applications. This turned out to be a good partnership.
- Much progress has been made toward the reality of the mini branch library in Montura. Many donations of books and other materials have been coming in, including cash donations. However, we are still open to receiving more books and other library type materials such as DVDs, etc. We are hoping to have the service open to the public by next month, April.
- The 2nd Annual African American Student Award of Excellence program was held in the library on February 29, 2016 at 5:30 PM. Our guest speaker this year was Ms. Estella Pyfrom, a top ten CNN Hero winner. She brought along her Brilliant bus with her to the event and attendees were treated to a tour of this mobile learning center. 22 students

from our schools were honored. We were also thrilled to have Commissioner Kristine Petersen with us. She handed trophies to the students and gave each an encouraging word. 153 attended the program.

- Your Library Director had the privilege of being one of the presenters at the 2016 Annual Florida Library Association Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida. This conference normally hosts library personnel from all over the state, especially professionals. The presentation was extremely well attended with many standing for the whole event as the room was full. The presentation was on Servant Leadership as a leadership style embraced by the top 10 best companies to work for in the US, with the implication that it may work very well in libraries as well. Many participants used their cell phones to photograph the slides, others left their business card and asked that the presentation be e-mailed to them. Highly successful event!
- The community tax assistance program offered by the library to the Clewiston residents for the past 12 years continues to be provided at the library in partnership with United Way.
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and sign up under Constant Contact. You will automatically be put on the golf course e-mail.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- The greens were fertilized this week.
- More tree trimming was completed this week on the golf course.
- Ladies Golf Clinic (Full Swing) was March 5, 2016 and had 8 ladies participate.
- Clewiston Golf Course Couples Championship is Saturday, March 26, 2016. The tournament is a 9-hole modified scramble. The sign-up sheet is in the golf shop.
- 29th Annual Campbell and Frances Nall Scholarship Rotary Golf Tournament is Saturday, March 12, 2016. The golf course will be open for regular play on Saturday at 2:00pm.
- Okeechobee Landings has scheduled another tournament for Monday, March 14, 2016.
- Golf Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2016 at City Hall. The meeting begins at 11am.
- Clewiston First Tee Junior Golf Clinic is March 19, 2016 from 4pm-5pm. Integrity is the life skill. For more information contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Pace of Play is becoming an issue. Please be considerate of other groups behind you, by letting faster players go through.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Baseball and Softball teams have begun to practice all over town getting ready for this year's season. Please be aware of the kids...Please SHARE!
- Clewiston Baseball & Softball Uniforms and Game Schedules were distributed at the Beardsley Room on Thursday, March. 10th at 7pm.

- Clewiston Baseball & Softball “Opening Ceremonies” and Team Pictures will take place on the small quad on Saturday, March 12th beginning at 8am.
- Clewiston Baseball & Softball Seasons begin on Monday, March 14th... Schedules will be posted as soon as possible on our website and FB page.
- The ice machine in the John Boy Auditorium has been repaired and is operational.
- Assembly of the new bleachers for the small quad has been completed.
- All electrical and data boxes for the scoreboards at Sugarland Sports Complex have been checked and repaired/replaced. All scoreboards have been checked and are operational.
- The safety netting has been repaired and secured above the spectator area on the small quad.
- Replacement of the dugouts on field #5 has been completed and replacement of all the score tables on the small quad at Sugarland Sports Complex has begun. Thank You to David’s Carpentry and Concrete for donating the labor!
- The irrigation systems have been repaired at the Civic Park and Sugar Festival Field.
- “NEW CLASS” KIDZ ZUMBA – Thursday’s from 4-5pm at the Beardsley Room.
- CHS Varsity Girls Softball next home game will be Thursday, April 6th against Glades Central at 7:00pm. GO TIGERS!
- CHS Boys Baseball next home game will be Friday, Mar. 11th at 4:30 pm (JV) vs. Brighton Charter and 7:00pm (Varsity) vs. Oasis. Come out and support the TIGERS!
- Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Mar. 12th – Elks Dinner and \$10,000.00 Drawing 6pm – Midnight John Boy Auditorium
 - Mar. 12th – Birthday Party Noon-6pm STP Pavilion #1
 - Mar. 12th – Birthday Party 1-4pm STP Pavilion #3
 - Mar. 12th – Birthday Party 2-5pm Youth Center (Bounce House)
 - Mar. 13th – Miss Princess of the Glades pageant practice John Boy Auditorium
 - Mar. 15th – Elections 6am – 8pm John Boy Auditorium/Youth Center
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodge-ball league, co-ed softball league, or AAU Track and Field, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: A few complaints have been called in this week but trap counts were zero because of the wind. I have scheduled a ground ULV treatment for this weekend and will schedule two for next week.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff ran pot holes on Friday this week. (2) We have been working on Sugar Festival prep all week. Goals that have been accomplished are: Flagpole moved and installed, grounds mulched, Library power washed, Youth Center power washed and flagpole painted, bathroom power washed and painted, and fence post set for entertainer service area installed.
- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) The flagpoles are in and the monuments are installed. (2) Park will get a fresh coat of red mulch. (3) Irrigation contractor has been working on replacing the main valves in the system this week and should be finished today. (3) The east entrance lights were installed.

- Building Maintenance: The City Hall was finished last week and looks great. The painter will start on the Firehouse next.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: The contractor is nearing the completion of pipe installation.
- Sidewalk Project: We are waiting on the delivery of “riser-rings” for man holes in the sidewalk. When they are here, we will finish the project.
- Spring Cleaning Recap: Sixty-five volunteers showed up Saturday and all went well. Six cubic yards of litter and debris were picked up.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- CID Investigators arrested Jorge Valadez on charges of first degree arson following an investigation into the burning of three vehicles on East Pasadena in February. Valadez is being held in the Hendry County Jail.
- Patrol officers are responding to an increasing number of identity theft claims. Please keep a close eye on bank statements and guard all personal identification documents closely. We have made an arrest in one of these cases. The others remain open.
- Officers attempted to make a vehicle stop on East Ventura one evening this week. The vehicle continued for a short distance and pulled into what was later determined to be their driveway. Family members ran out of the house and interfered with the traffic stop. A forty-one year old man was arrested for interfering with the stop.
- The Click-it-or-Ticket campaign continues. A couple of DUI arrests have come as a result of the increased focus on traffic offenses.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week’s activity:
 - 1280** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
 - 566** Complaints Investigated
 - 44** Traffic Citations Issued
 - 16** Arrests Made
 - 3** City Ordinance Violations
 - 17** Alarms Responded To
 - 52** Merchant Escorts
 - 5** Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City’s website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- **DON’T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION!** Visit our office today.
- **ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE** on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.**
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.**
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.**

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.